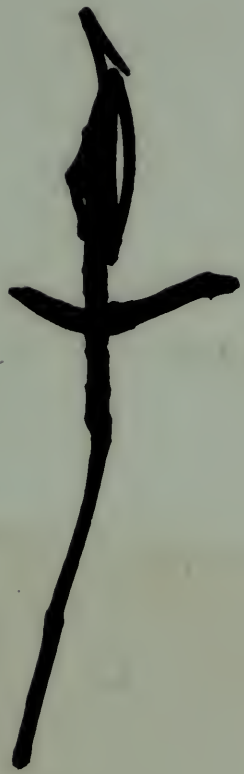
NBONNET BABIES A-B-C BOOK

MODERN HORNBOOK

ULALIE OSGOOD GROVER



N. Holton
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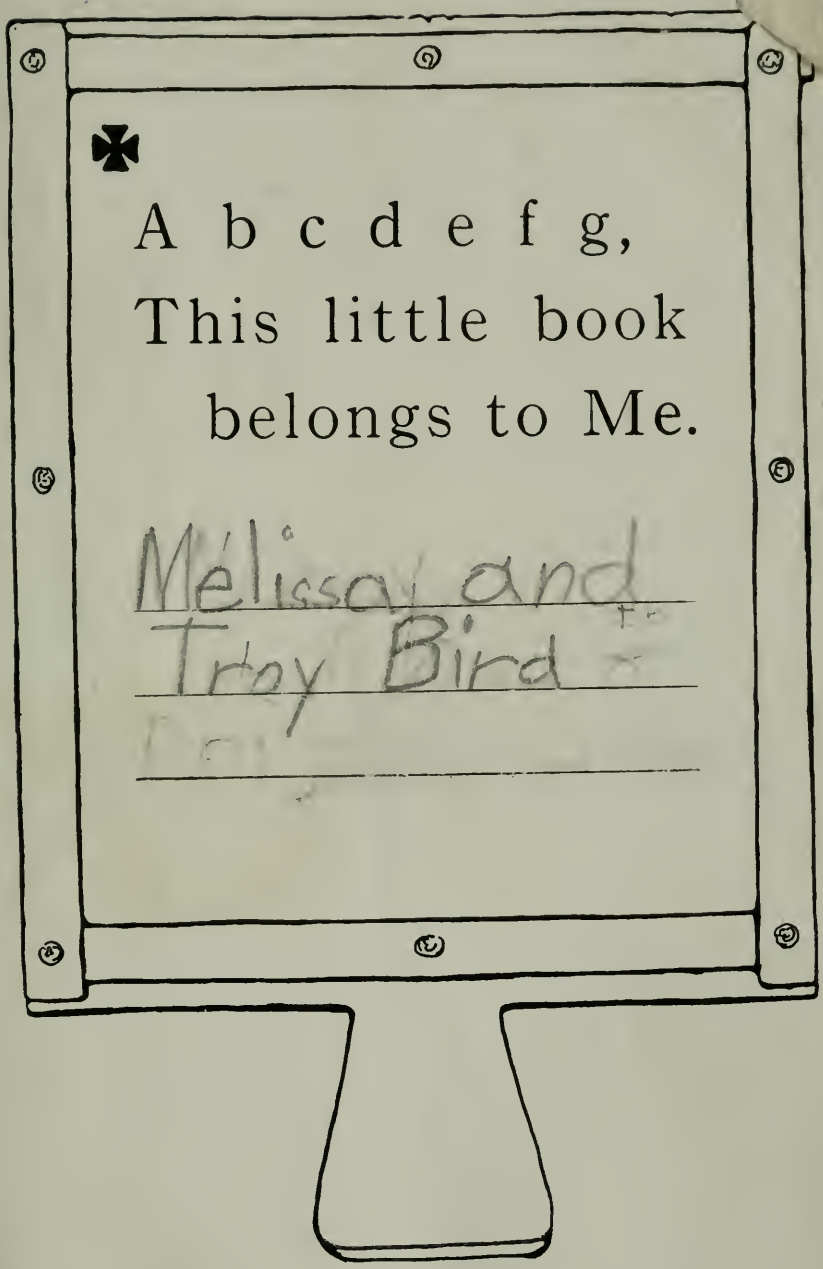
Denver, CO 80219-2524

THE SUNBONNET BABIES
A B C BOOK

The first A-B-C books ever made were called Hornbooks, and looked very much like the book-plate on the opposite page. They were not real books, however, but only small wooden tablets, with the carefully printed letters covered by a thin piece of horn to protect them from the soiled fingers of the children.


A b c d e f g,
This little book
belongs to Me.
Melissa and
Troy Bird

Molly and May teaching their dollies
from an old-fashioned "Hornbook"

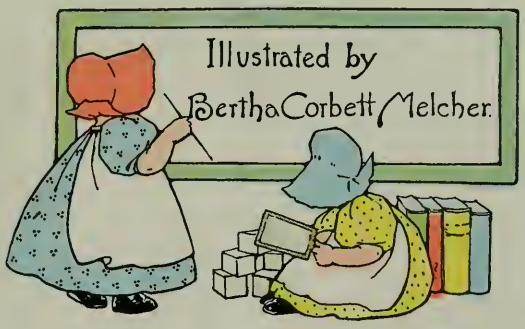
THE SUNBONNET BABIES

A-B-C BOOK

A MODERN HORNBOOK

By

EULALIE OSGOOD GROVER



RAND McNALLY & COMPANY

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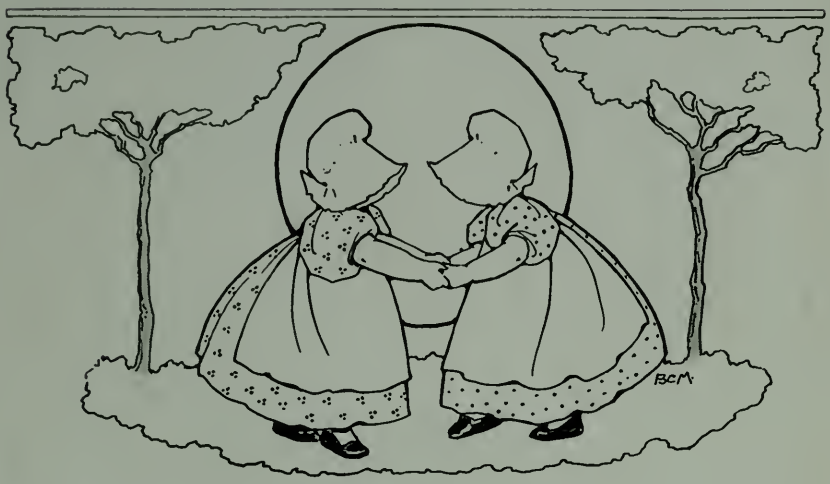
Edition of 1934



Made in U. S. A.

CS11-34

To

All Little People

Who cannot tell how to spell their own names,
but want to learn

A stands for Arthur,
For Alice and Ann.
Now tell me *your* name
As quick as you can,
For the Sunbonnet Babies
Have come today
To teach you your letters
Beginning with A.

Here is an apple, rosy and round.

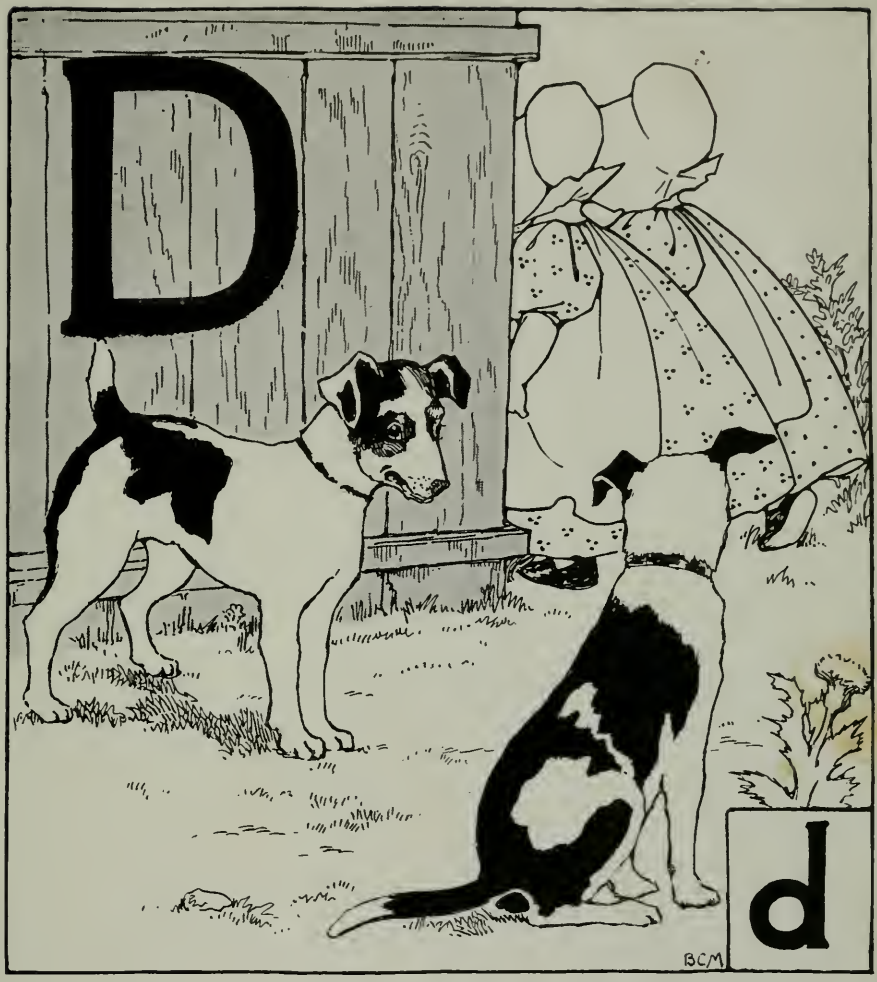
B stands for the Babies
Whose faces hide
Behind pretty bonnets
With brims very wide.
One wears a pink bonnet,
The other a blue.
We'll tell you their names
In a minute or two.

Bouquets and babies begin with B.

C stands for the Cradle,
So cozy and wide,
Where two little dollies
Sleep side by side.
The dollies belong
To Molly and May—
The Sunbonnet Babies
Who are here today.

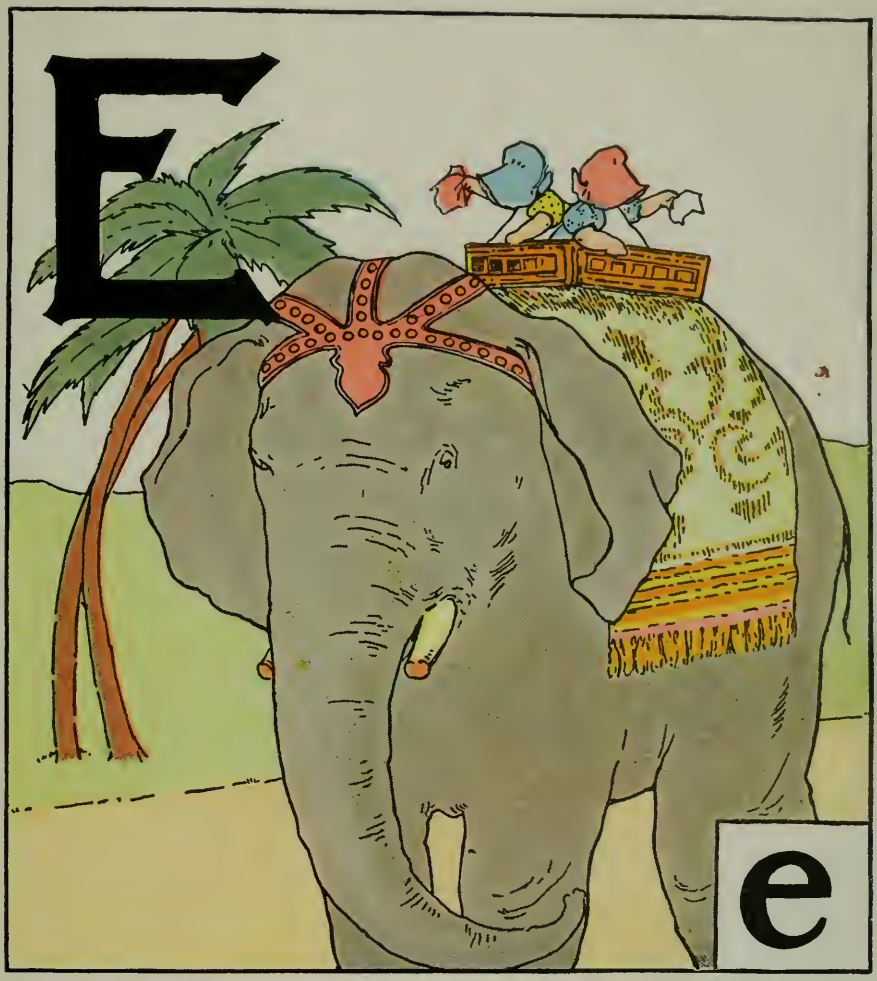
The Sunbonnet Dollies cuddle to sleep.

D stands for the Dogs
Who frolic and play
With the Sunbonnet Babies
All through the long day.
They jump and they bark,
They play "Hide-and-Seek,"
But never a word
Can either dog speak.



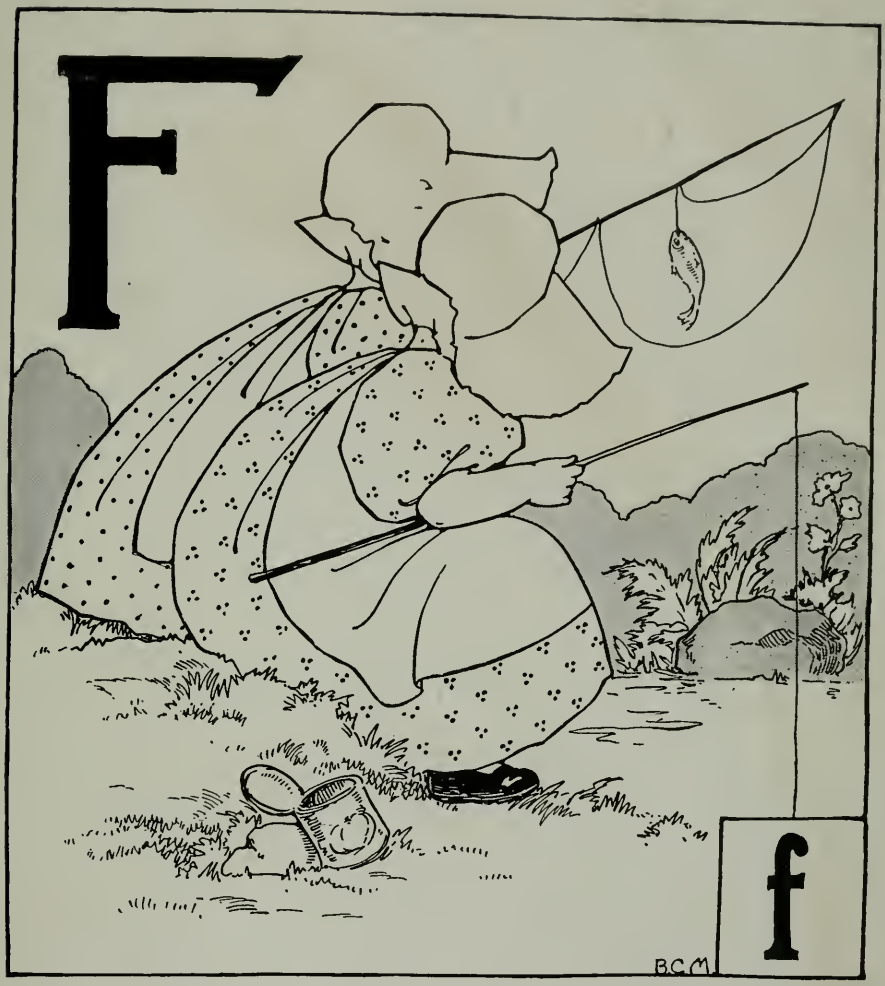
No, never a word can
either dog speak.

E stands for Elephant,
So big and so tall!
If you ride on his back,
You look very small.
If you feed him with peanuts,
Or give him a pear,
He swings his long trunk
High into the air.



When we ride on the elephant,
we feel very small.

F stands for Fish
In the rollicking brook.
Come quickly, oh, quickly,
And throw in your hook!
But don't tumble in,
As did Molly one day,
Or you'll frighten the timid
Wee fishes away.

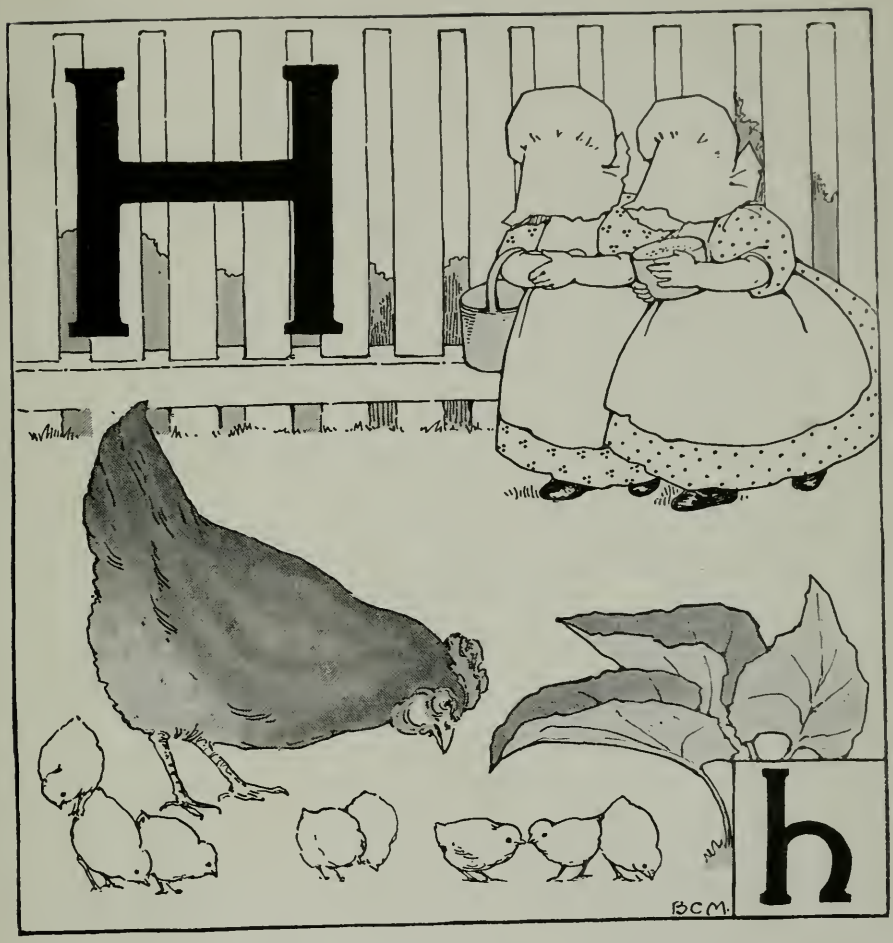


Fishie, come, fishie, come, bite our hooks.

G stands for Grasshopper,
Grasshopper green,
The nimblest fellow
That ever was seen.
He'll jump out of sight
In the wink of an eye,
And to find him again
It is useless to try.

We can catch you now,
Mr. Grasshopper green.

H stands for Hen
That says, "Cluck, cluck!"
To her wee yellow chicks.
"Cluck, cluck! Cluck, cluck!
Come this way! I'll show you
A fat worm to eat,
If you'll search for it well
With your small yellow feet."



Cluck, cluck! Cluck, cluck!
Here's a fat worm to eat.

I stands for Indians,
One, two, and three.
They are hiding right now
Behind that tall tree.
They have arrows and bows,
And they know how to shoot,
But we'll scare them away
With our Toot! Toot! Toot!

There are the Indians,
one—two—three.

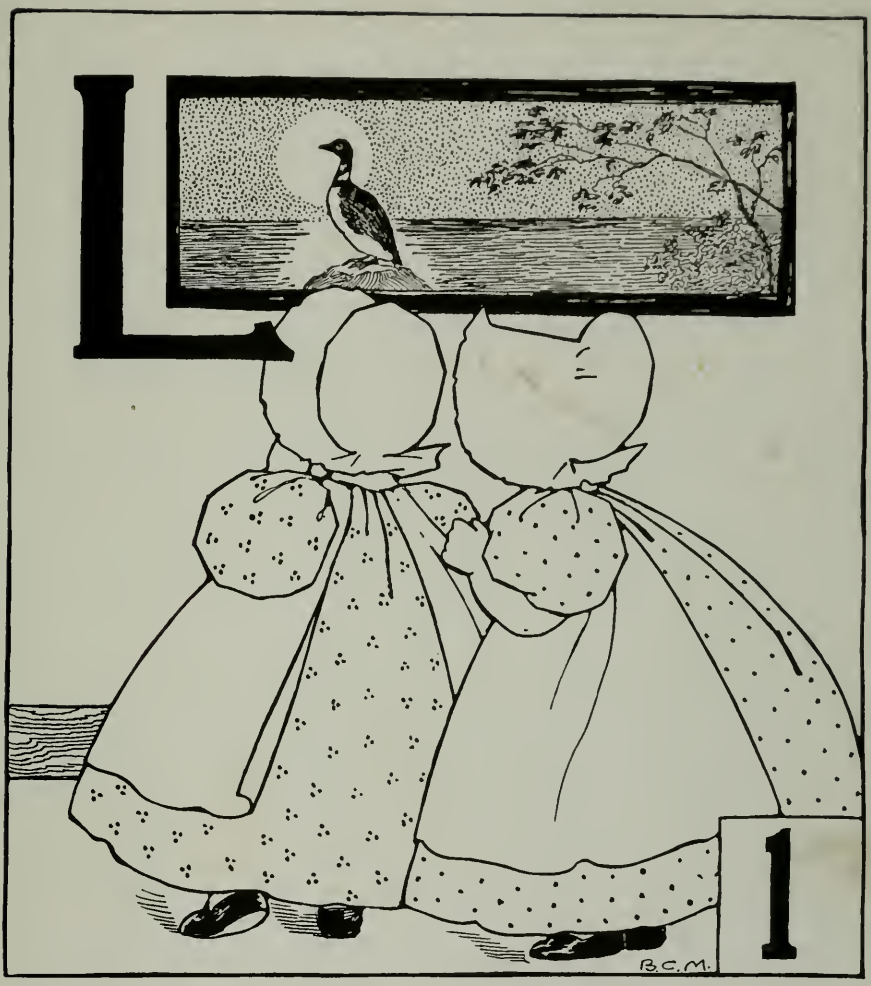
J stands for Jam,
Juicy and sweet.
When spread on our bread,
It is good to eat.
But jam pots are kept
High on the shelf,
Where one cannot reach them
To help herself.

The jam pots are kept high on the shelf.

K stands for the Kite
That flies very high,
Above the tall tree tops
Into the sky.
Fly, little kite!
Fly away like a bird,
Up where the earth sounds
Cannot be heard.

Fly, little kite, fly away
like a bird.

L stands for the Loon,
A queer-looking bird,
With the saddest song
That ever was heard.
On moonshiny nights,
Out over the lake,
We can hear Mr. Loon
His strange call make.

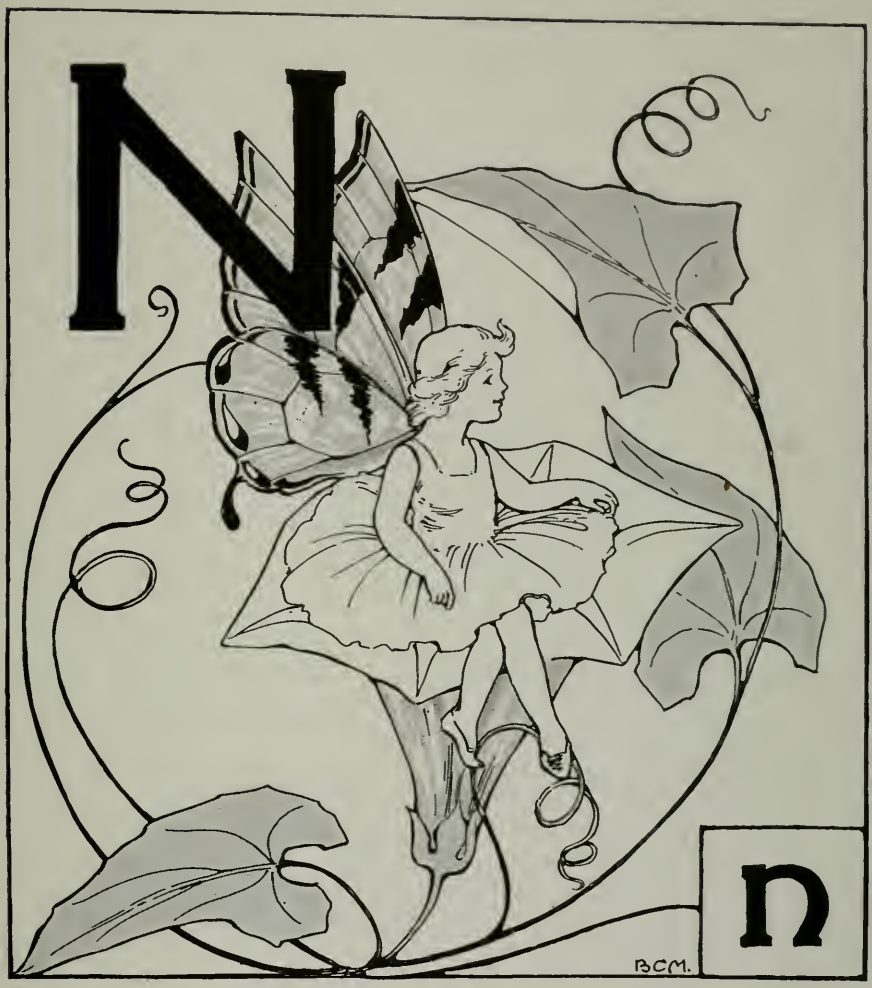


O Mr. Loon, are you singing
to the moon?

M stands for the Mouse
That ran up the clock.
But he quickly ran down
When it went tick-tock!
What a timid wee thing
You are, mousie dear,
If Grandfather's clock
Can make your heart fear.

Hickory, dickory, dock!
The mouse ran up the clock.

N stands for Nixie,
A dear little pixie,
Who lives with the fairies
In the Land of Trixie.
She eats bee bread,
And drinks honeydew,
And will dance in the moonlight
For me and for you.

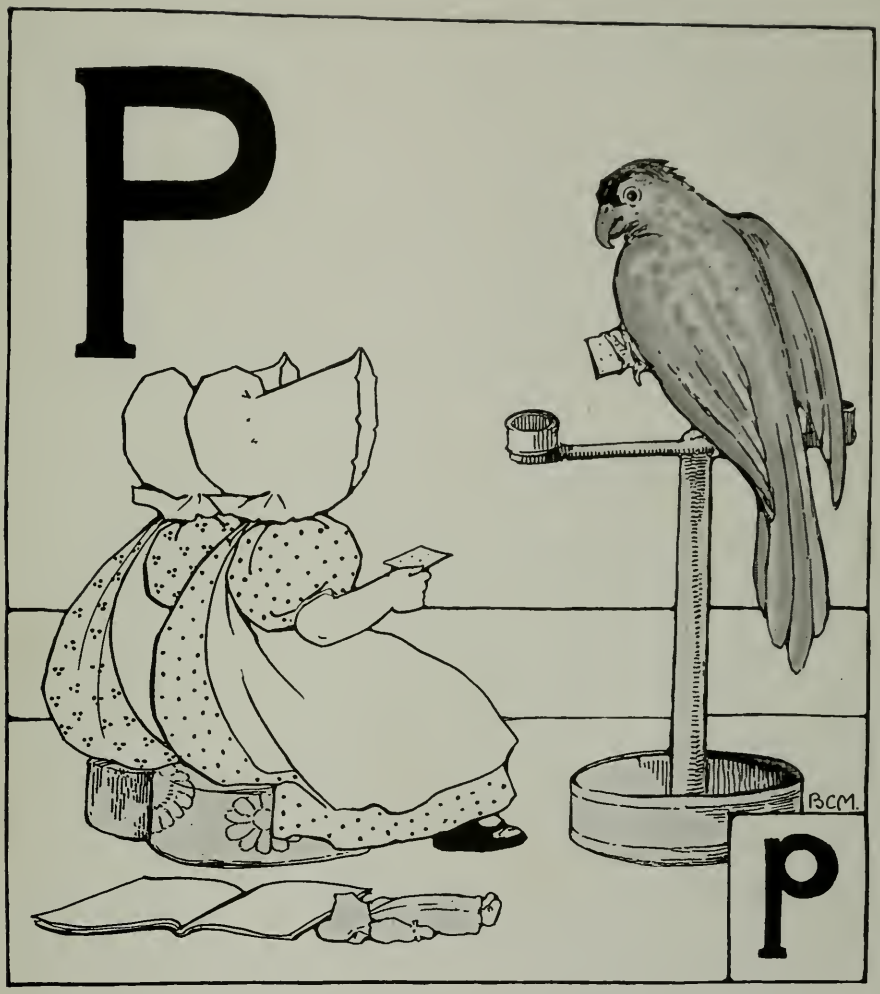


Come, come, pretty Nixie,
dance for us now.

O stands for the Ocean,
So big and so grand!
It is jolly good fun
To play in the sand,
Or swim in the waves,
Or sail our fine boat,
Or throw in big leaves
And watch them afloat.

Hurrah for old ocean,
So big and so grand!

P stands for Polly,
Our parrot so green.
She's the prettiest Polly
That ever was seen.
She sings and she screams,
She scolds and she talks,
And then, very proudly,
Away she walks.



Polly wants a cracker.
Here's a cracker for Polly.

Q stands for Quail,
With a short, stubby tail
That is not any good
When used for a sail.
So the fat little quail
Cannot soar and fly,
Like his pretty bird friends,
High into the sky.

The fat little quails cannot fly very high.

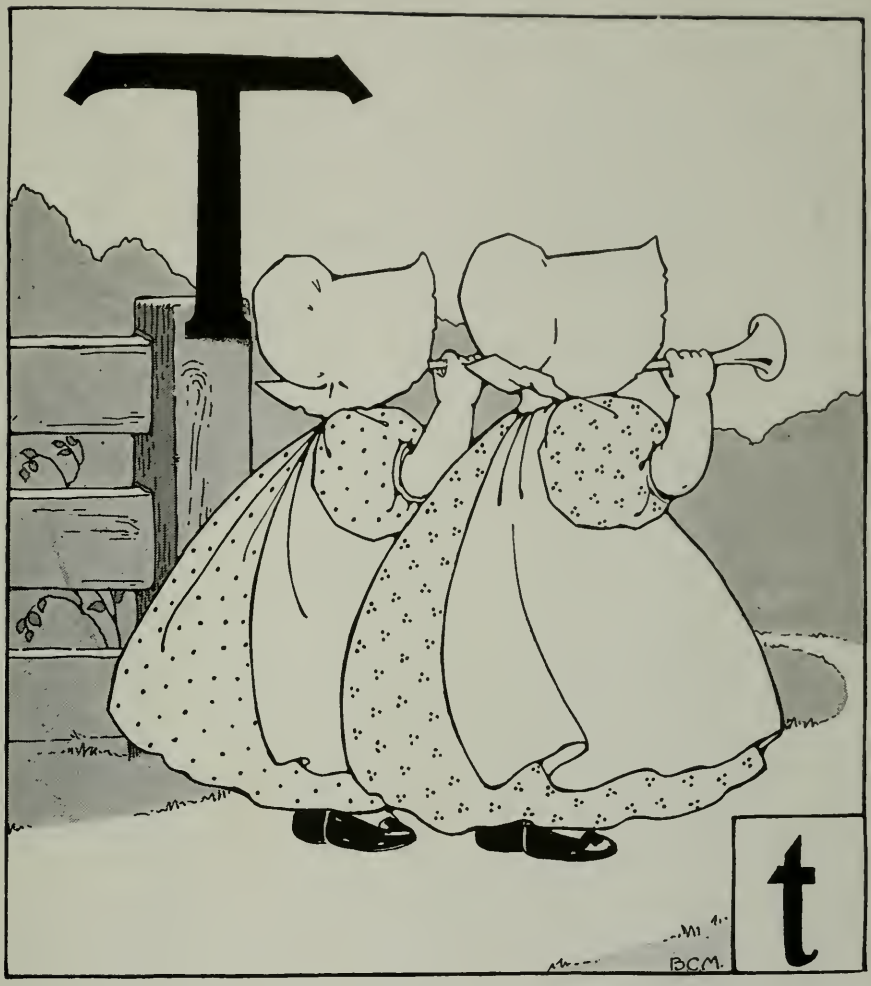
R stands for Robin,
A nice, friendly bird,
Whose song in the springtime
We've all of us heard.
He wears a red vest,
And struts over the lawn,
Looking for worms
To pounce upon.

Oh, look! Mr. Robin has found a fat worm.

S stands for the Swing,
The one in the trees,
Where Molly and May
Swing away in the breeze.
They play they are birds
Flying up to the sky.
Fly, little birdies!
Fly high! Fly high!

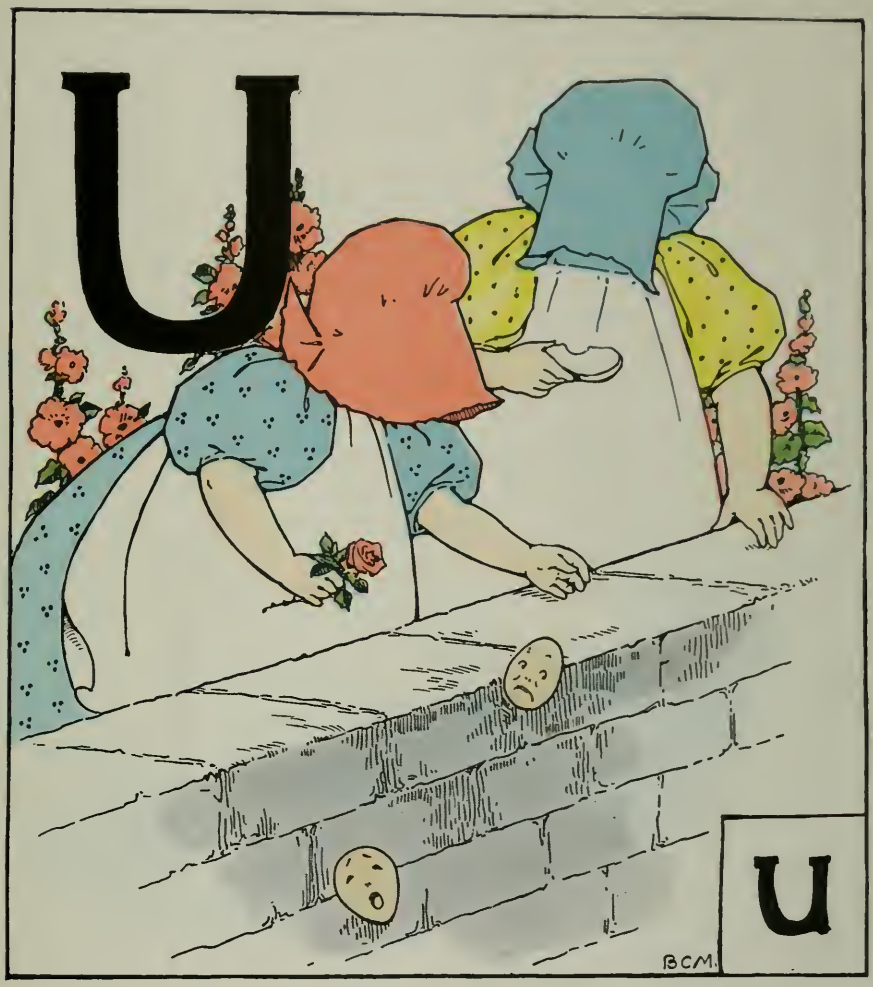
How do you like to go up
in a swing?

T stands for the Trumpets
That make a loud noise.
They used to belong
To the Overall Boys.
But one day they gave them
To Molly and May,
Who blow on them now
'Most every day.



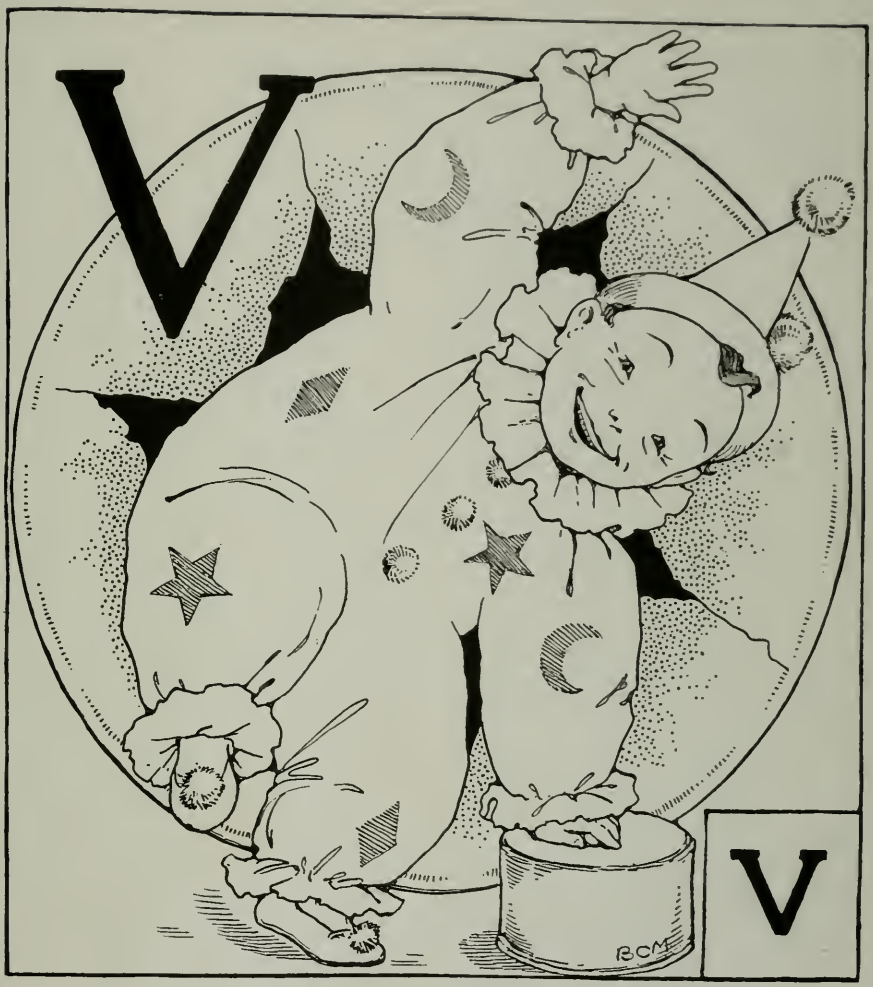
Toot! Toot! Will you come out to play?

U stands for Umpty.
He and Dumpty, his brother,
Sat on a high wall
Beside each other.
The Sunbonnet Babies
Spied them one day,
And upset them both
Right into the bay.



Umpty and Dumpty
had a great fall.

V stands for Victor,
A jolly old clown,
Dressed in gay colors
From his toe to his crown.
He turns a quick handspring,
And looks like a wheel,
Till it's hard to tell
His head from his heel.

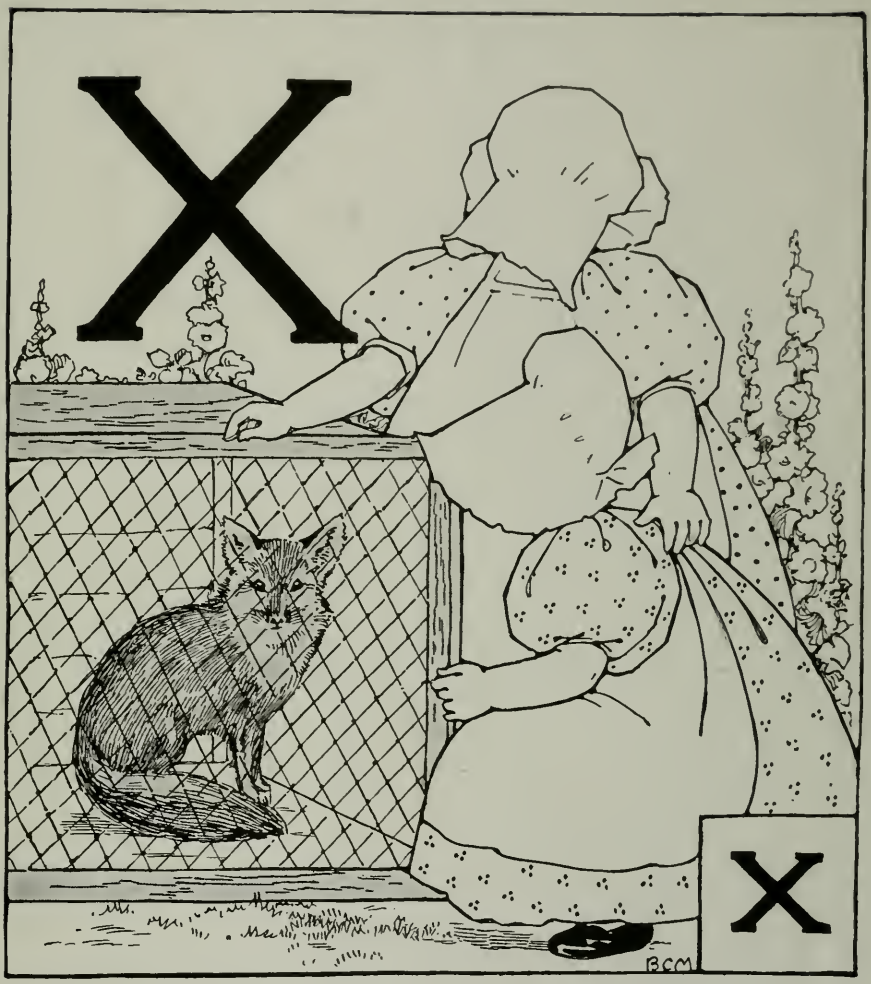


I'm a jolly old clown.
I'm Victor Brown.

W stands
For the Windmill gay,
Whose great arms swing
Through the air all day.
Blow, Mr. West Wind!
Blow, oh, blow!
And make the tall windmill
Go, go, go!

Blow, Mr. West Wind, blow,
oh, blow!

X stands for nothing
That we know about,
At least, so far
As we can make out.
It's a useless letter,
Except in Box,
Or in other small words,
Like Ox and Fox.



How do you like your big box,
Mr. Fox?

Y stands for Yuletide,
Which comes once a year,
When Santa Claus drives
With his jolly reindeer,
From his home in the Northland,
With a sleigh full of toys,
Which he leaves at each house
For good girls and boys.

Yes, I am Santa Claus,
your very best friend.

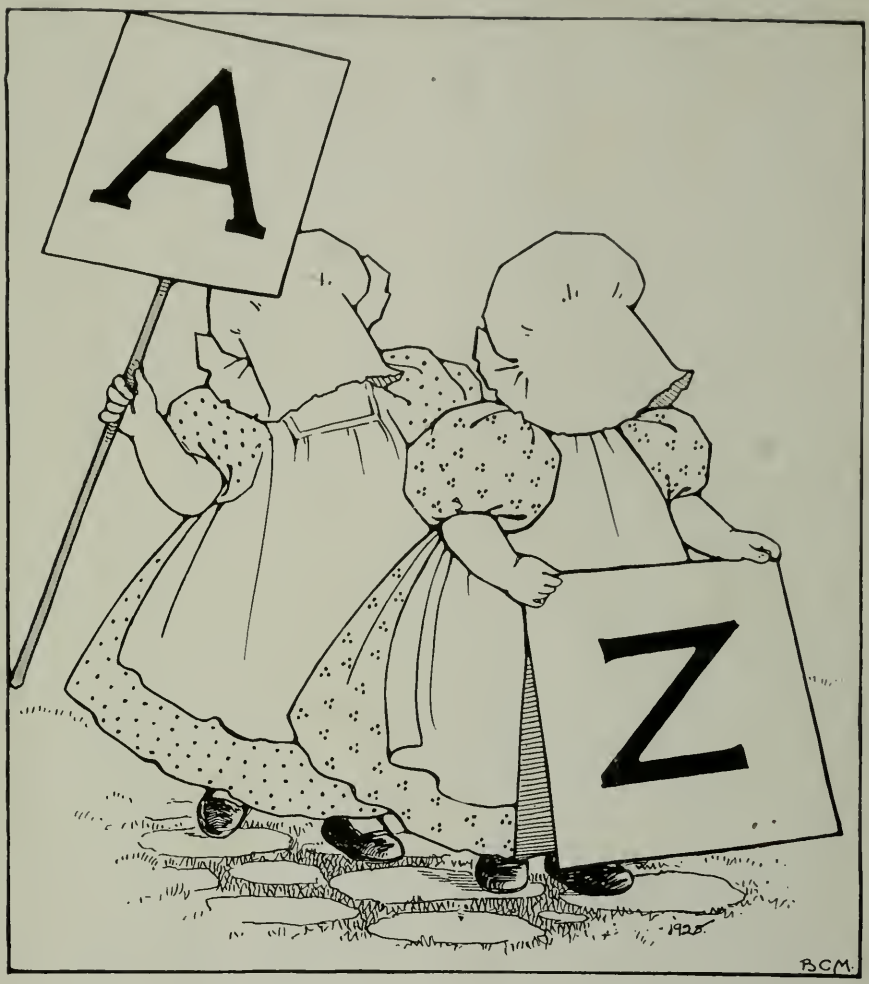
Z stands for Zinnia,
An old-fashioned flower
That makes Grandmother's
garden
A beautiful bower.
Some zinnias are yellow,
Some red, and some brown.
Our Grandmother's garden
Is the gayest in town.

We have gay zinnias to sell.
Come, buy our pretty flowers.

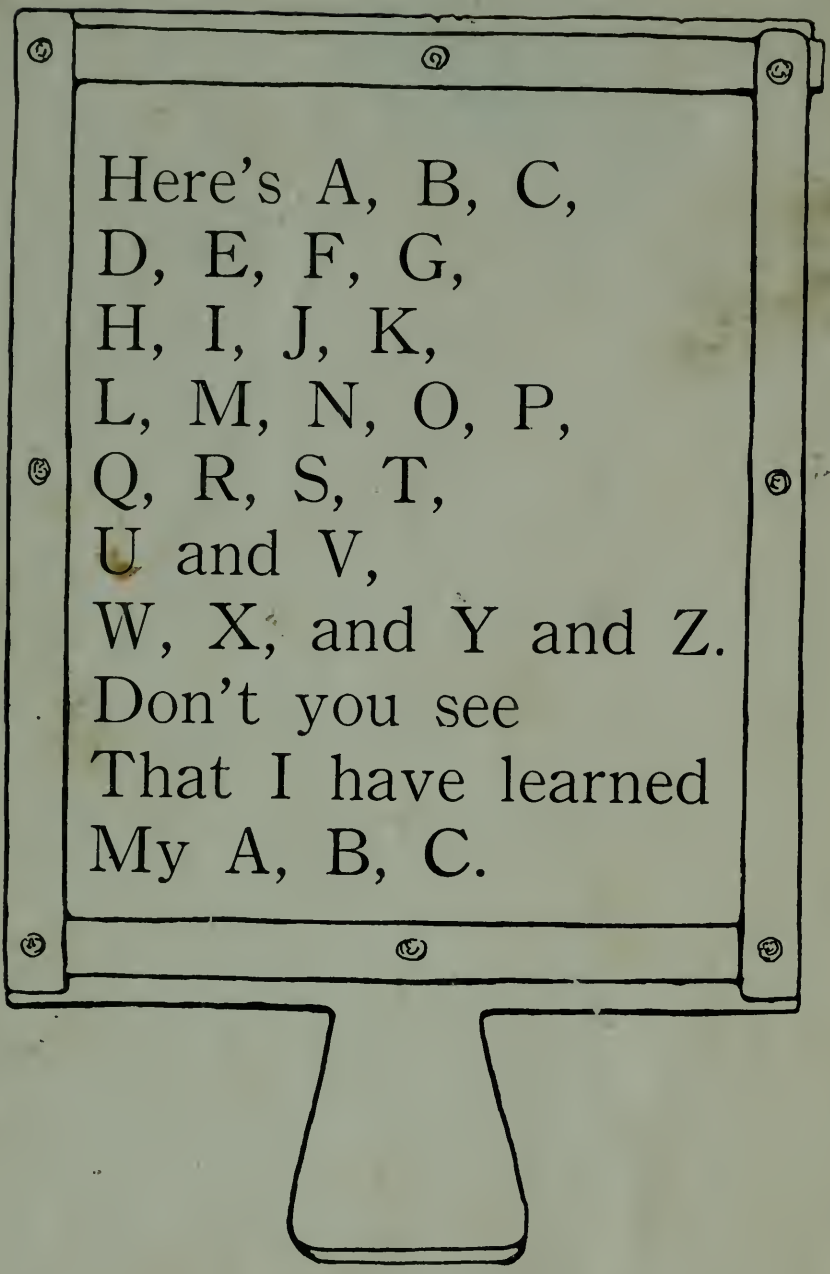
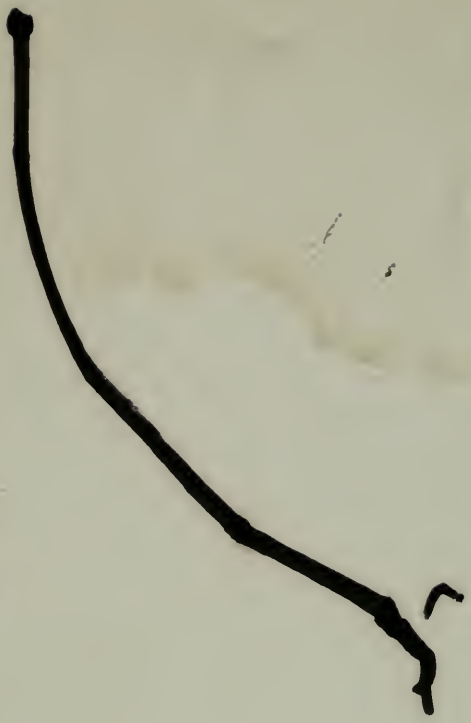
& This queer, twisty sign,
Called Ampersand,
Is sometimes used
In place of And.
Molly and May
Think it's hard to make,
But it's not much harder
Than queer figure 8.

Ice cream and cake!
Oh, what a treat!

And now we have taught you
Your letters all,
From A to Z,
Both large and small.
So we'll bid you good-by
And curtsy low,
And throw you sweet kisses
Before we go.



Good-by! Good-by!
Good-by to everybody!


Here's A, B, C,
D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K,
L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S, T,
U and V,
W, X, and Y and Z.
Don't you see
That I have learned
My A, B, C.